(b) The strategies proposed for achieving the above targets include expansion of irrigated area, increasing area under high yielding varieties of rice and multiple cropping, farm mechanization, increasing fertilizer consumption, increasing productivity of fruits and vegetables and development of homestead garden.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 298.70 crores has been proposed under Agriculture sector for 10th Plan period.

MSP of Agricultural Commodities

†1363. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been demanded by Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh that support price for agricultural produce may be announced one crop in advance;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on this demand from States;

(c) whether Government will take action for announcing support price one crop in advance this year as per the demand from the States; and

(d) if so, by when and the details thereof State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, all efforts are made to announce the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities at the earliest before the sowing season. The MSPs announced by the Government are uniform all over the country.

Use of fly ash in Farming

1364. DR. AKHILESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Rao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth has successfully conducted an experiment to use fly ash for increasing crop yield;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.